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EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT  
A

ASSASSINS



VINCE HERNANDEZ  
JORDAN GUNDERSON  
TEODORO GONZALEZ  
JOSH REED

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# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

# ASSASSIN



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Rym.12.  
Sotelo



*The story so far...*

Life after death has proven far tougher than Executive Assistant Lily could ever have imagined. Following a nightclub brawl in Shinjuku, Lily was fired from her job and spiraled into a nightmare of heroin, eviction and soon, bloodshed. Now, the determined and ruthless Mazutsu, a Japanese arms dealer with endless resources and high-tech weaponry, has made it his number one priority to eliminate all Executive Assistant threats to his empire, starting with Lily...

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

# LIFE AFTER DEATH

PART 2 OF 3

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS

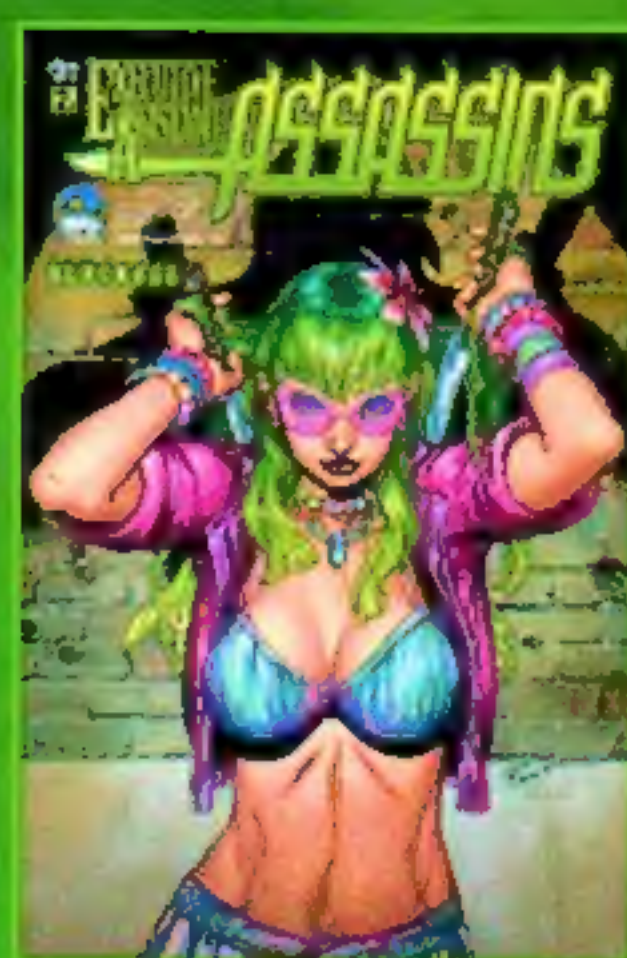
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COLORS

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LETTERING

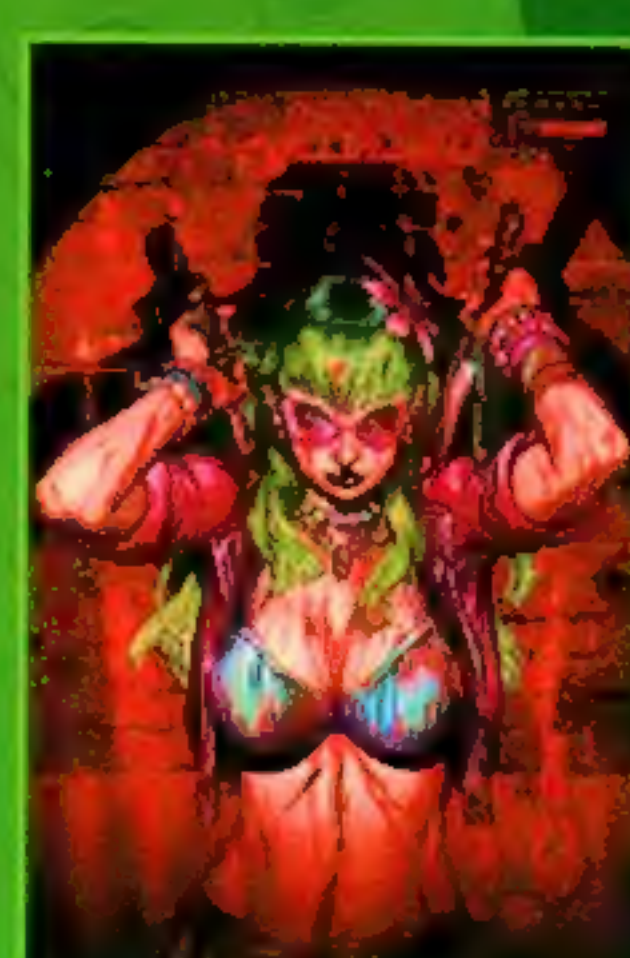
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MICHAEL RYAN  
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*Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner*

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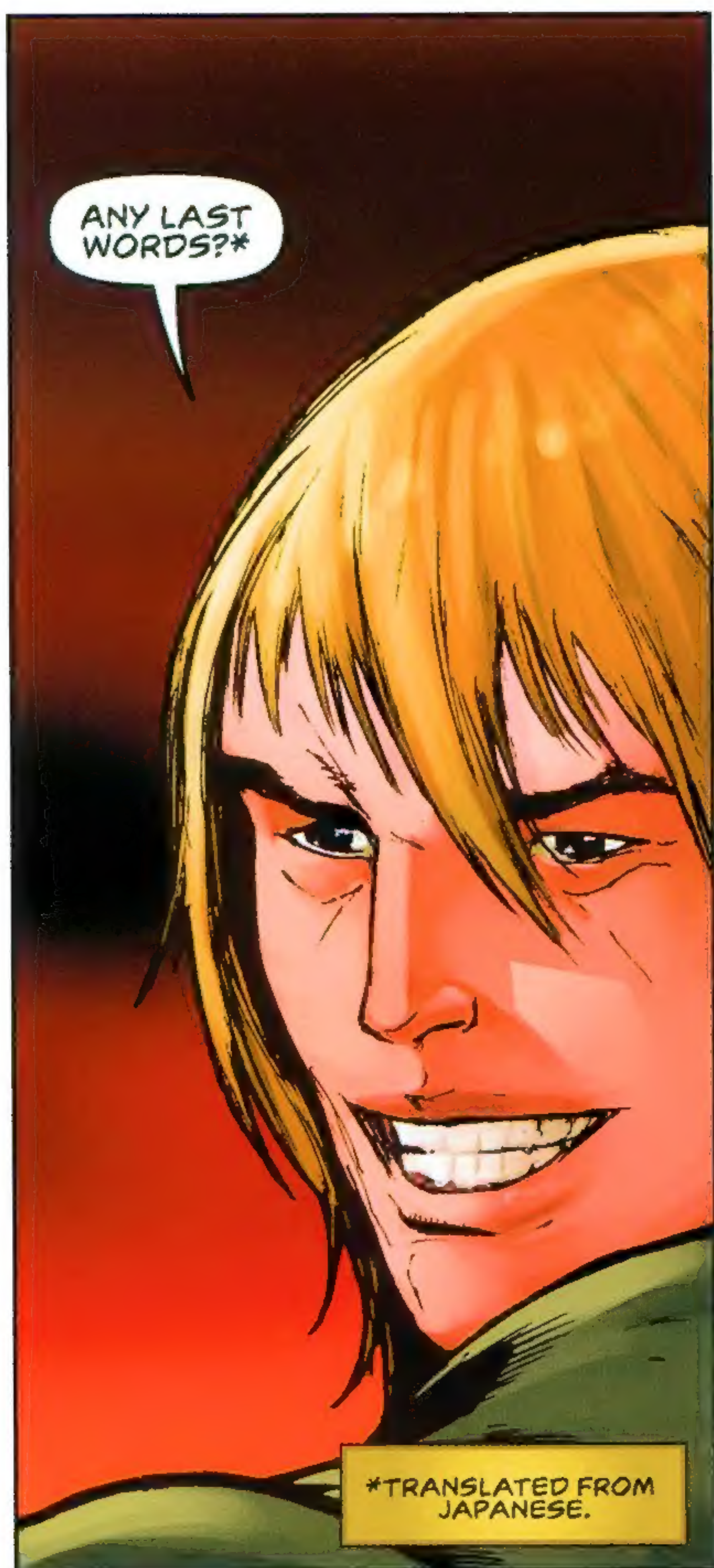




I 'VE TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING A FEW TIMES IN MY LIFE. BUT, IT RARELY SEEMS TO WORK OUT THE WAY I INTEND.

TAKE THIS SITUATION, FOR INSTANCE.

THE GUY WITH THE GUN POINTED AT THE BACK OF MY HEAD-- I SPOTTED HIM AT THE CLUB I USED TO WORK AT LAST NIGHT, SITTING MOTIONLESS WHILE I TOOK OUT A PACK OF DRUNK MORONS. HE CLEARLY WANTED ME TO NOTICE HIM.



ANY LAST WORDS?\*

\*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.



F\*CK OFF.

BECAUSE, IT WAS ALSO MY PAST THAT LET ME DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE, LIKE ALWAYS. OR MORE TO THE POINT--



--MY ADDICTIONS.

NOT JUST TO HEROIN. OR TO VIOLENCE. NO...



...MY UNENDING HABIT OF FAILURE.

WELL, ALRIGHT THEN...









WHAT THE F\*CK'S GOING ON?!

WHO ARE YOU?!

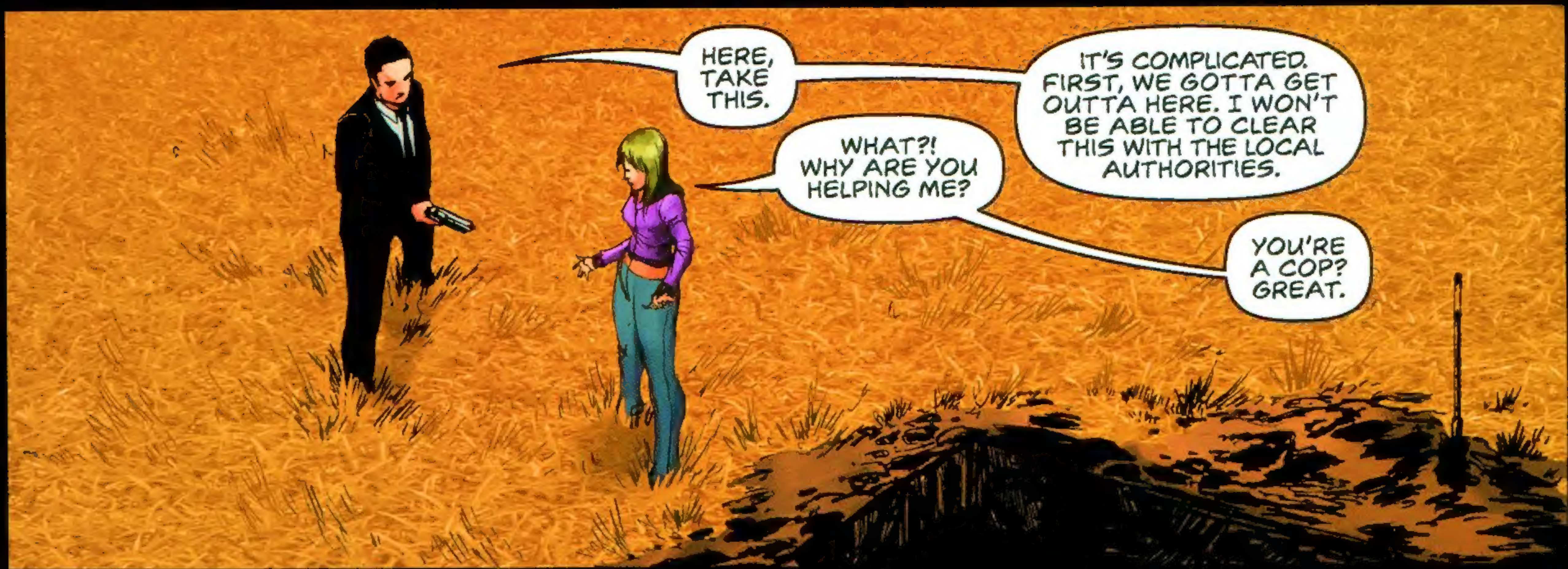
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN, JUST COME WITH ME.



KATSE, I AM SORRY FRIEND, BUT YOU WILL SURVIVE. I'LL CALL FOR YOUR AID ONCE WE'RE CLEAR.

YOU WILL MAKE IT. AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE. IT WAS MY ONLY RECOURSE. I TRUST IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO UNDERSTAND.

AM... I... DYING?



HERE, TAKE THIS.

WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

IT'S COMPLICATED. FIRST, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE. I WON'T BE ABLE TO CLEAR THIS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

YOU'RE A COP? GREAT.



NO, LILY. FORGIVE ME, I KNOW YOU'RE CONFUSED. JUST BEAR WITH ME.

I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME FOR NOW. WE HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY.



TRUST? HE CLEARLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.

SIGH...

ALRIGHT.





SAHI, CHIBA  
PREFECTURE.  
JAPAN.

HARU,  
ARE YOU  
FLYING?



YES, MOM. I'M THE  
PILOT. IT'S IMPORTANT  
I STAY FOCUSED!



WELL,  
DON'T LET ME  
KEEP YOU FROM  
YOUR IMPORTANT  
DUTY, CAPTAIN,  
SIR.

UP,  
UP AND  
AWAY WE  
GO!



I DIDN'T  
EXPECT TO SEE  
YOU AGAIN BEFORE  
THE SEASON  
CHANGED.

WE ARE  
HONORED.

I WAS  
ABLE TO  
CLEAR SOME  
TIME IN MY  
SCHEDULE.

YOUR  
SARCASM  
IS NOT LOST  
ON ME.

BUT KNOW  
THAT YOU ARE  
ALWAYS MY PRIORITY,  
SATOMI. BOTH  
OF YOU.





WHY DO I  
FIND THIS  
HARD TO  
BELIEVE?



YOU SHOULDN'T.

YET, I DO.  
DESPITE YOUR  
PRESENCE HERE  
TODAY, THE DAYS  
BETWEEN YOUR  
VISITS GROW  
LONGER.

YOU KNOW  
I CANNOT EXPLAIN  
TO YOU THE REASONS  
FOR MY ABSENCE, BUT  
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND  
IT IS FOR YOUR OWN  
WELL-BEING. BOTH  
OF YOU.



LOOK AT ME,  
TARVER. I AM NOT  
ANGRY, OR SPITEFUL.  
WE HAVE BEEN PATIENT  
TO YOUR NEEDS, AND I  
DO BELIEVE ONE DAY  
WE WILL ALL BE  
TOGETHER.

YOU ARE A  
GOOD WOMAN, AND  
I WILL REPAY THE DEBT  
OF YOUR TOLERANCE. I  
AM TAKING STEPS AS WE  
SPEAK TO ENSURE OUR  
FUTURE TOGETHER,  
AWAY FROM MY  
PAST.



FOR  
OUR SON'S  
FUTURE.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S A SAFE HOUSE. SOMEWHERE WE CAN LAY LOW TILL WE FIGURE OUT A PLAN. WE'LL BE--

--SAFE HERE. YEAH, I GET IT.



I SHOULD TELL YOU I'M NOT ALL THAT GOOD AT LAYING LOW. KINDA DOESN'T RUN PARALLEL WITH MY PERSONALITY, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, LILY.



YOU **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS** ARE SURPRISINGLY NOT VERY STEALTHY FOR BEING TRAINED IN COVERT OPS.



DRINK?



YEAH, WELL... I DIDN'T EXACTLY GRADUATE WITH HONORS. ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME YOUR NAME AT SOME POINT?

IT'S COPE. JUST COPE.

OKAY, JUST COPE. SO FOR REAL... WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE BACK THERE?





YEAH...  
ABOUT  
THAT.



I SORTA...  
WORK FOR  
THE C.I.A.



AS IN  
THE CENTRAL  
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY?  
THE C.I.A.-- C.I.A.?!? JEEZ,  
I AM ONE F\*CKING  
UNLUCKY GIRL, I  
SWEAR.



JUST  
LISTEN TO  
ME FOR A  
SECOND.

SAVE IT, JUST COPE. I'M NOT  
GETTING HELPED BY THE UNITED STATES  
F\*CKING GOVERNMENT. I'M THANKFUL FOR  
WHAT YOU DID, BELIEVE ME, BUT--- I'M NOT  
STUPID ENOUGH TO PLACE MY TRUST IN  
YOUR COUNTRY.

WOULD YOU  
JUST RELAX  
AND LISTEN TO  
ME FOR A  
SECOND?

DON'T TRY  
TO STOP ME, YOU  
KNOW WHAT I'M  
CAPABLE OF.

DON'T YOU  
AT LEAST WANNA  
KNOW WHY CERTAIN  
PEOPLE WANT YOU  
DEAD?

-HMPH-







...  
WHAT?  
WHAT IS  
IT?



THE  
WASHROOM!?  
QUICK.

THERE.



WITHDRAWALS?

UNNH...  
YEAH, *SO*?

NOTHING,  
IT'S JUST...



AT THE RISK OF  
SOUNDING CLICHE--  
YOU NEED TO DETOX.  
GET RIGHT AGAIN.

NOT FOR  
ME, OR EVEN  
YOURSELF. YOU  
NEED TO DO THIS  
IF YOU PLAN TO  
STAY ALIVE.

MAYBE  
COFFEE'S A  
BETTER CHOICE  
THAN BEER.



YOU  
CALL THIS  
LIVING?



LATER...

YOU KNOW... I WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

A DRUG ADDICT?

NO, YOU BLUNT F\*CK. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I WASN'T ALWAYS SO...

...LOST.

LOOK. I'M NO EXPERT IN MATTERS OF FATE, AS YOU CAN SEE.

I'VE SPENT THE PAST DECADE IN SITUATIONS PRETENDING I'M SOMEONE I'M NOT. ALLOWING MY TRUE SELF TO COME TO THE SURFACE IS AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD FOR ME. THE PRICE OF A SLIP-UP IS DEATH.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT. WHY DO YOUR PEOPLE WANT ME DEAD?

NOT ME...



"...PEOPLE FAR MORE POWERFUL.

"YOUR FORMER MASTER, TAKEO SUZUKI, KNEW THIS ALL TOO WELL. WHILE HE MUST'VE SEEMED AT THE TIME TO BE THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN TO YOU, HE WAS MERELY A FRONT MAN. ONE OF MANY. ALL OF THEM REPORT TO A MUCH HIGHER POWER.

"MAZUTSU SAI HAS BEEN ON OUR UNOFFICIAL WATCH LIST FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

"HE WAS BORN INTO MONEY, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIS WILL TO SUCCEED. HE NEARLY TRIPLED HIS WEALTH BEFORE REACHING THE AGE OF THIRTY. OIL WAS HIS BUSINESS THEN.

"BUT FOR MEN LIKE MAZUTSU, CURRENCY BECOMES A HABIT-- SOMETHING THEY TAKE FOR GRANTED. AND SOON, THEY TURN TO **POWER** TO SATISFY THEIR DESIRES. GEO-POLITICAL GAME CHANGING BECAME HIS NEW OBSESSION.

"INITIALLY, HE STARTED IN DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. IT WAS HIS FIRST FORAY INTO THE ARMS DEALING INDUSTRY, BUT HE QUICKLY BECAME A FORCE IN THE MARKET.

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE REALIZED SUCCESS IN **THAT** INDUSTRY IS NOT FOUND THROUGH PEACE.

"AND HE IS A MAN WHO **MUST** WIN AT ALL COSTS-- HIS VERY NATURE DEMANDS IT.

"YET, EVEN AT THIS POINT, THE AGENCY DID NOT DEEM HIM A THREAT TO OUR SECURITY. HOWEVER, HIS CURRENT ENTERPRISE IS WHAT CONCERNS US..."



"...POLITICS."

A POLITICIAN?  
YEAH, FRIGHTENING.

YOU  
DON'T  
GET IT.

"THE BEST-- OR WORST  
KIND OF CRIMINAL IF YOU MAY,  
DOESN'T HIDE OUT AMONGST  
OTHER CRIMINALS WHERE HE'S  
EASY TO SPOT. NO... MAZUTSU  
IS SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW  
THE BEST KIND OF CRIMINAL  
INHABITS THE LANDSCAPE  
WHERE NO ONE WILL THINK  
TO LOOK FOR HIM.

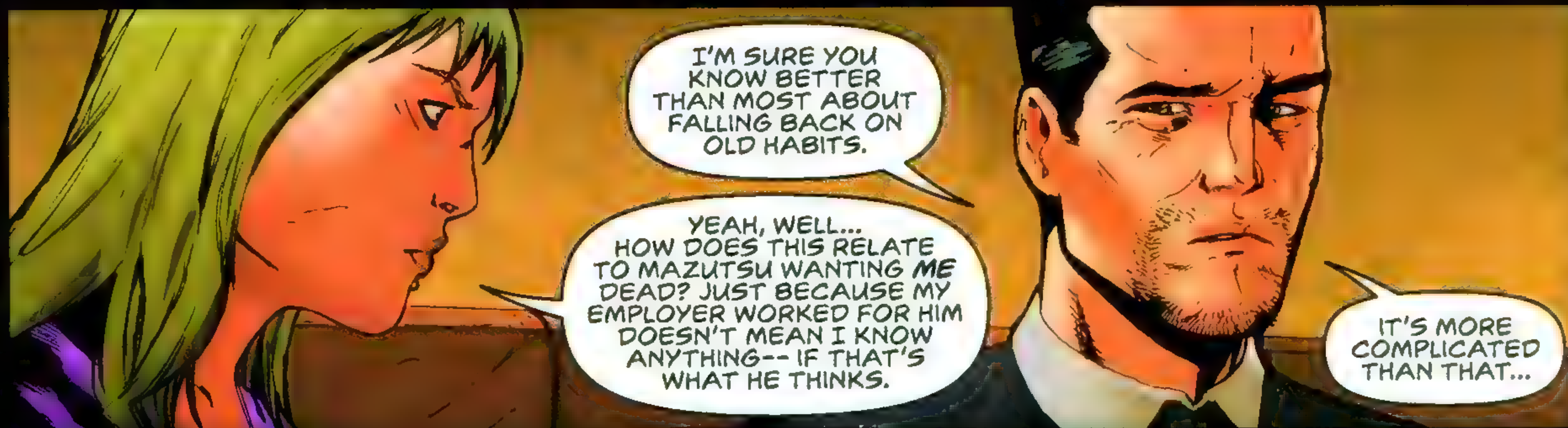
"AND WORSE  
YET, HE USES HIS  
BLANKET OF POLITICAL  
DISCOURSE TO HIDE  
THE TRUE NATURE  
OF ACTIVITIES...

"...BLOOD.

PLEASE--  
NO!

"MEN LIKE  
THIS, THEY MUST  
ALWAYS FALL BACK  
ON THEIR TRUE NATURE,  
WHAT CALLS TO THEM. AND  
THE PEOPLE HE'S BEGUN  
KILLING ARE VALUED  
ASSETS TO US."





I'M SURE YOU KNOW BETTER THAN MOST ABOUT FALLING BACK ON OLD HABITS.

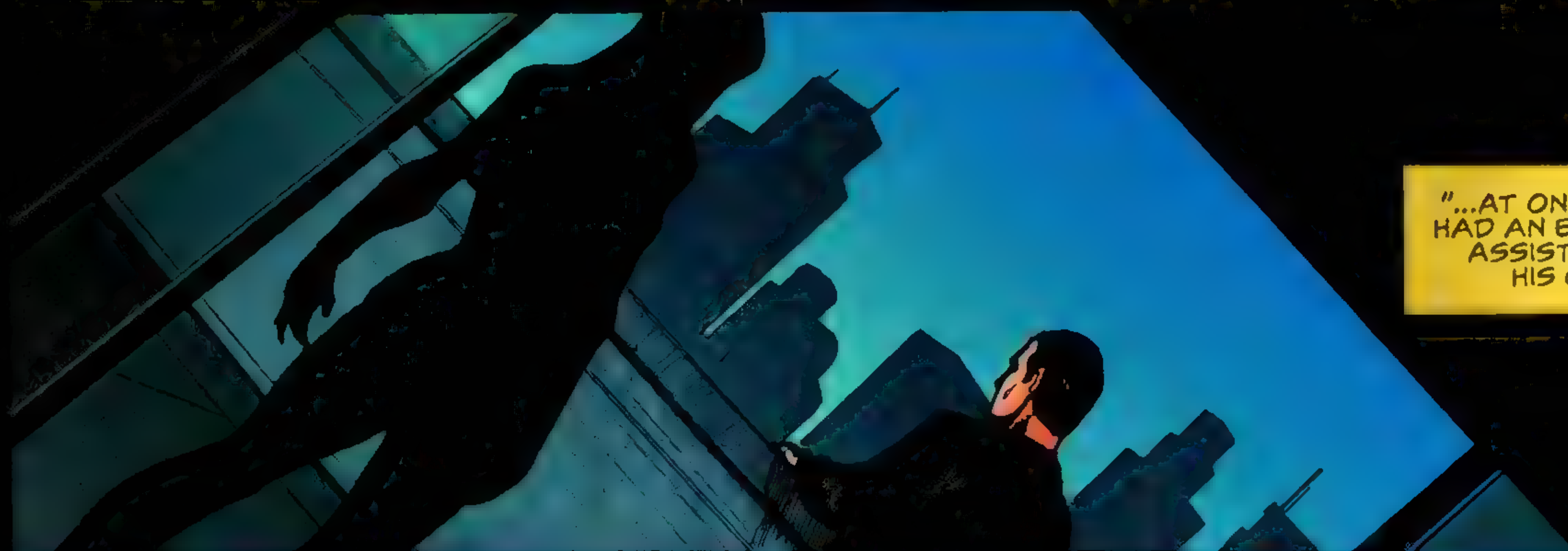
YEAH, WELL... HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO MAZUTSU WANTING ME DEAD? JUST BECAUSE MY EMPLOYER WORKED FOR HIM DOESN'T MEAN I KNOW ANYTHING-- IF THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS.

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT...

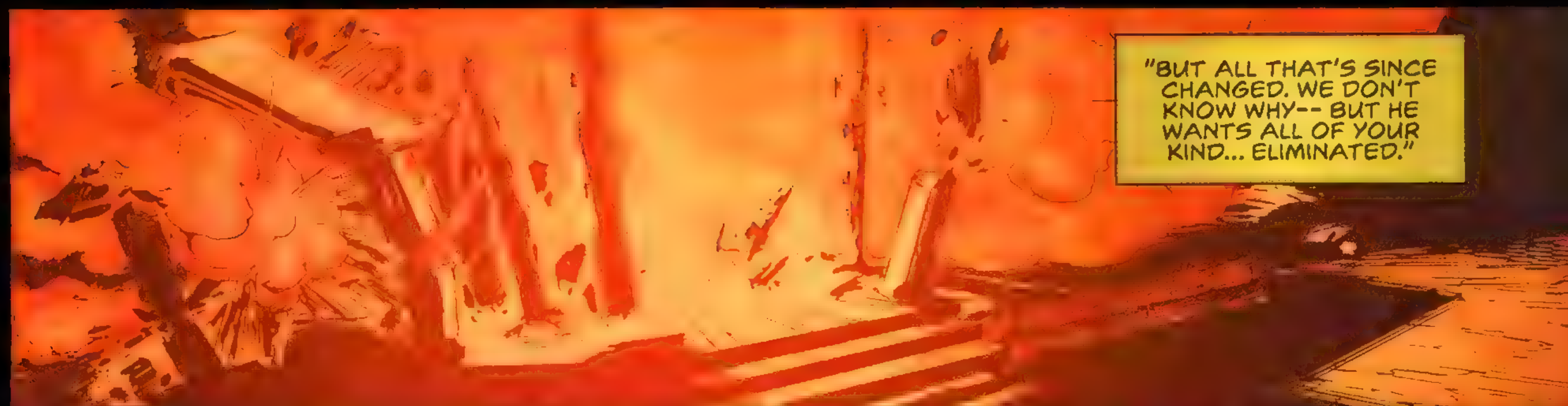


"...AND YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY EA HE WANTS DEAD.

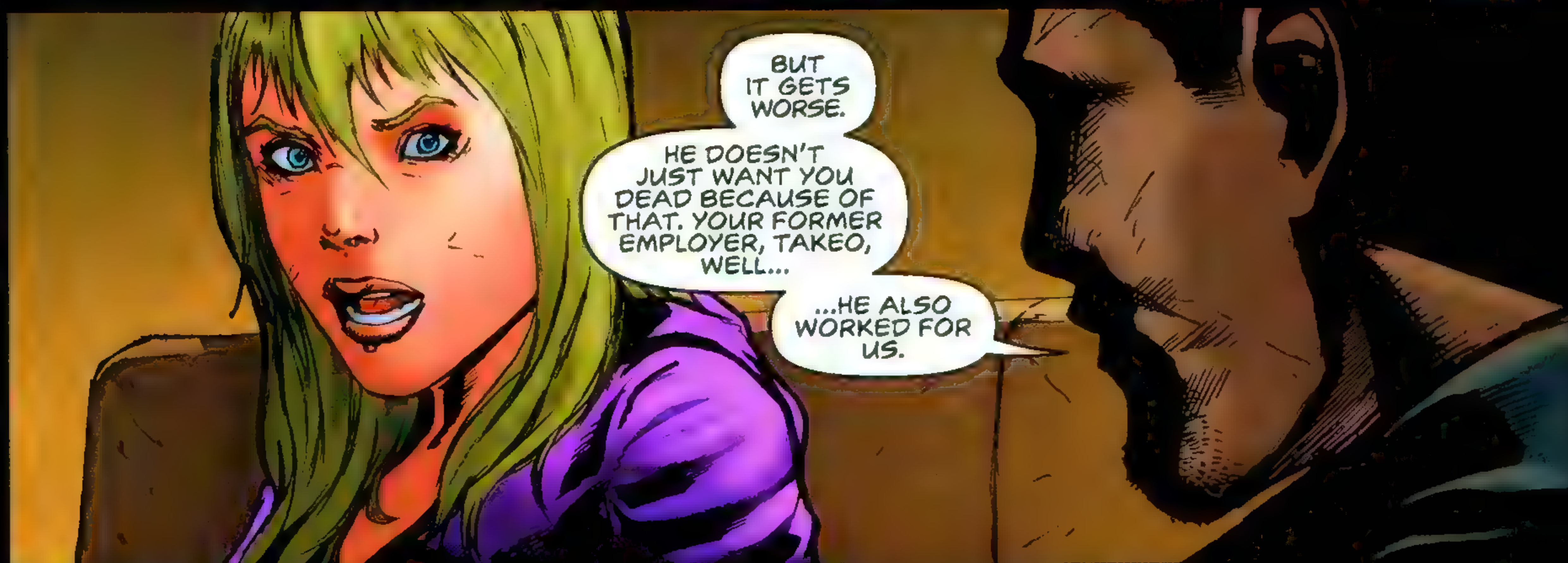
"OUR INTELLIGENCE TELLS US HIS INVOLVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOLS HAS OCCURRED AS EARLY AS A DECADE AGO. AND ONE THING WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN...



"...AT ONE TIME HE HAD AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT OF HIS OWN.



"BUT ALL THAT'S SINCE CHANGED. WE DON'T KNOW WHY-- BUT HE WANTS ALL OF YOUR KIND... ELIMINATED."



BUT IT GETS WORSE.

HE DOESN'T JUST WANT YOU DEAD BECAUSE OF THAT. YOUR FORMER EMPLOYER, TAKEO, WELL...

...HE ALSO WORKED FOR US.



LATER THAT NIGHT...



HEY...  
YOU OK?

THAT'S A SILLY  
QUESTION.

YEAH,  
I GUESS  
SO.



YOU *GUESS* SO?  
I JUST FOUND OUT THE  
GUY I DEDICATED MOST OF  
MY ADULT LIFE TO WAS WORKING  
FOR THE F\*CKING C.I.A., WHICH  
MEANS BY ALL ACCOUNTS--  
I WAS WORKING FOR YOU  
IDIOTS ALSO.

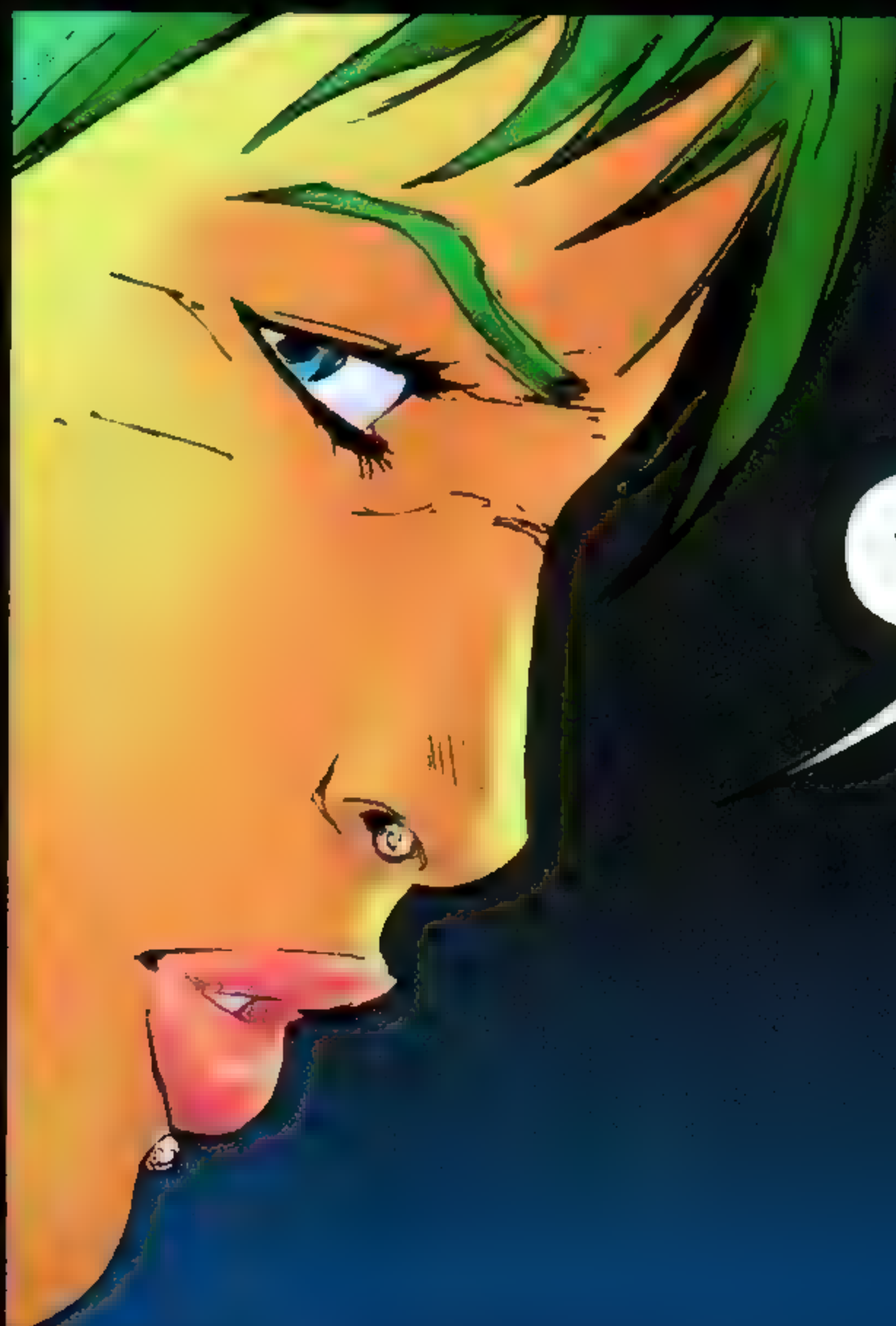
WE'RE NOT  
ALL IDIOTS, LILY. AND  
HEY, AT LEAST SOME OF  
THAT MURDER AND ESPIONAGE  
YOU PERFORMED WHILE UNDER  
HIS SERVICE HAD SOME  
JUSTICE TO IT.

YOU AGENTS  
ARE NO LESS SINISTER  
THAN ANY CRIMINAL I'VE  
ENCOUNTERED, YOU JUST  
HAVE THE LAW OF THE  
LAND TO PROTECT  
YOURSELVES.

LOOK, I'M  
NOT GONNA GET  
INTO A DEBATE  
OVER--



--CAN IT. YOU  
RESCUED ME BACK  
THERE. YOU DIDN'T  
HAVE TO BUT YOU DID.  
YOU OBVIOUSLY NEED  
MY HELP IN SOME WAY  
OR I WOULDN'T BE  
HERE, SO IN RETURN  
I WANT SOMETHING  
FROM YOU.



I WANT  
YOU TO SAVE  
ME... AGAIN.



TOKYO.

YOU'RE LATE.

APOLOGIES, SIR.  
MY FLIGHT WAS  
DELAYED.

OFF  
SCOUTING FOR  
MORE EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANTS, I  
TRUST?

SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

I DON'T  
PAY YOU TO  
BE VAGUE, I  
PAY YOU FOR  
SPECIFICS.

KAITO IS  
DEAD.

WHAT?!

YOU HEARD  
ME. SHE TOOK  
KATSE DOWN  
AS WELL.

AND COPE?

NOWHERE TO  
BE FOUND.

OH.

EXACTLY. NO  
DOUBT THE C.I.A.  
OR MOSSAD IS  
INVOLVED.

I'M SORRY,  
MAZUTSU. HE  
WAS A GOOD  
MAN.

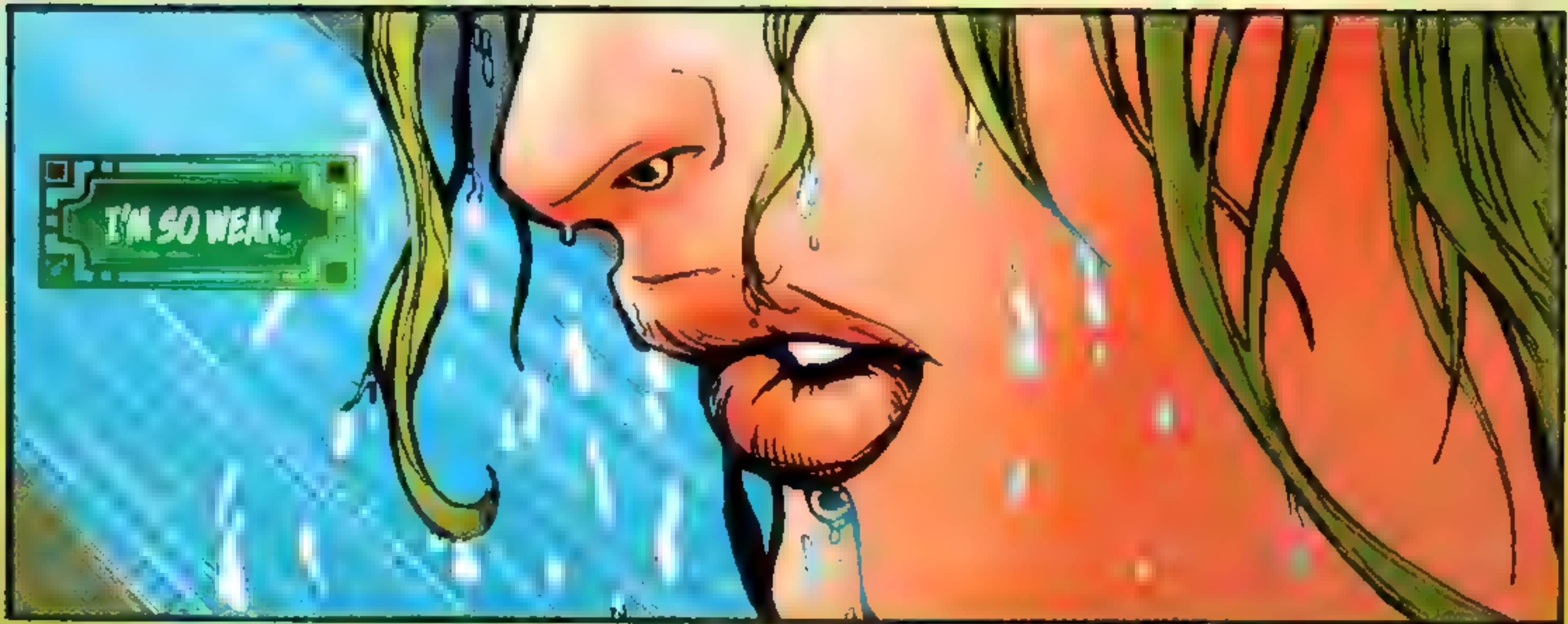
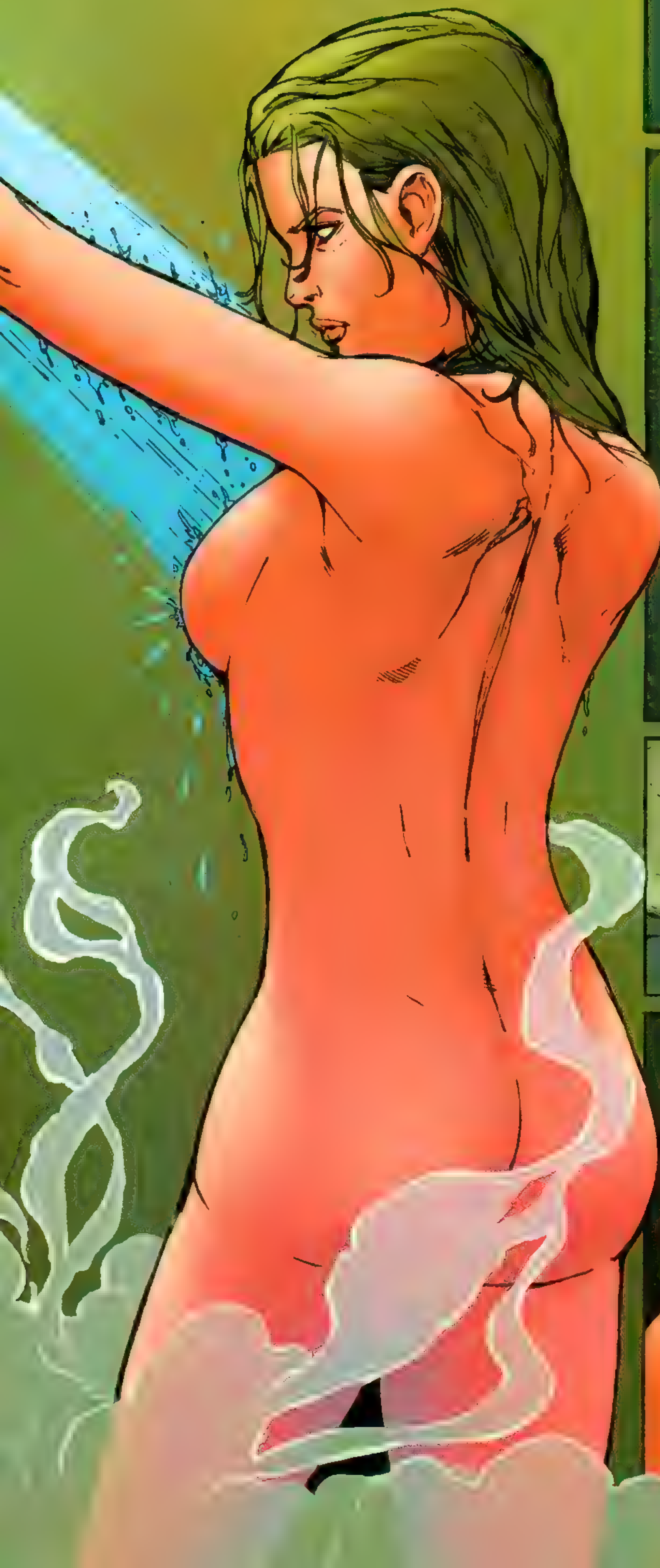
NO, HE WASN'T.  
THAT IS WHY I HIRED  
HIM. YET, NOW AN EVEN  
GREATER PROBLEM  
PRESENTS ITSELF.

WE MUST  
CLEANSE OUR  
PEOPLE BEFORE I  
CAN BE CERTAIN OF  
WHO TO TRUST  
AGAIN.

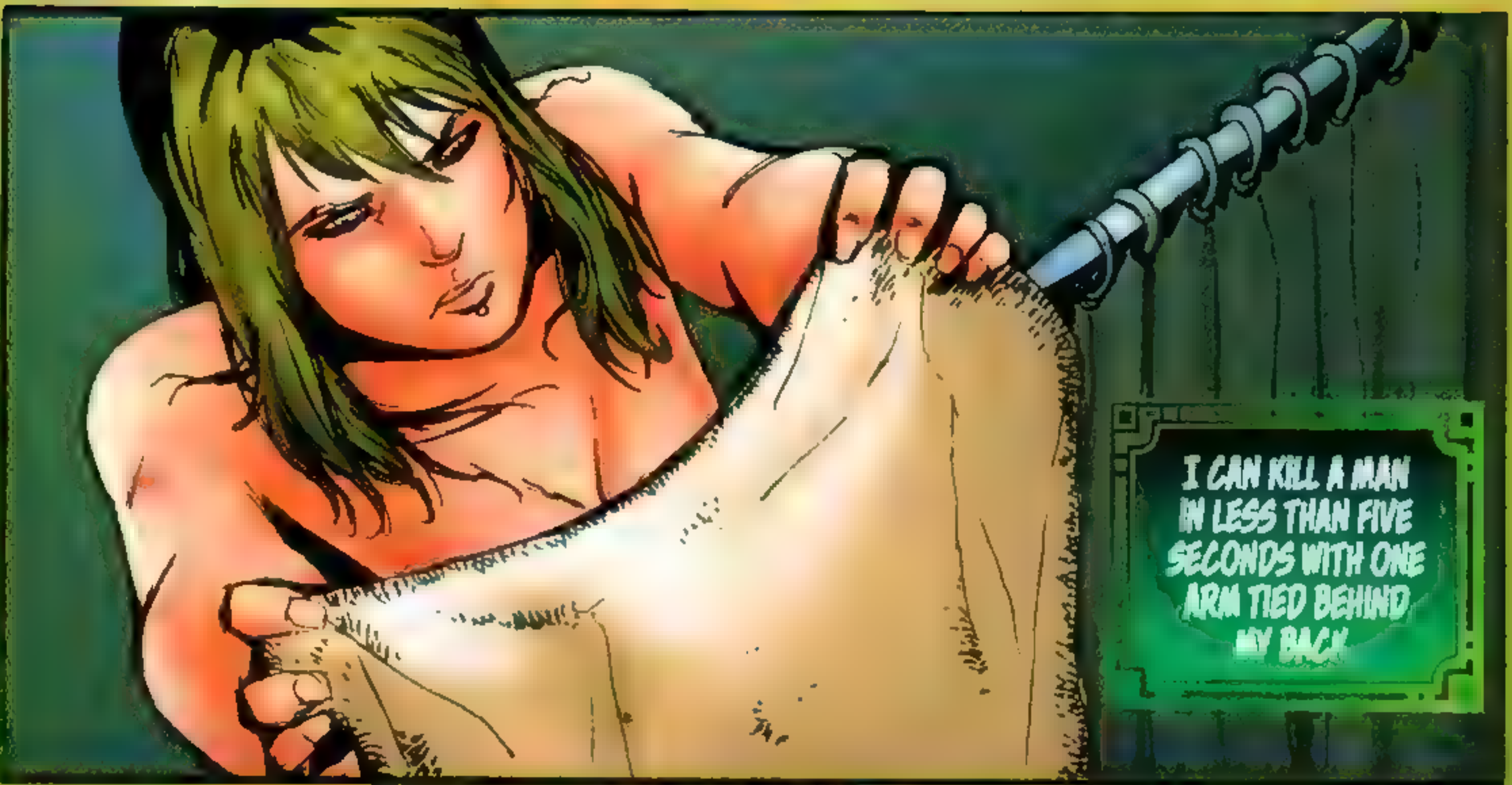


I HAVEN'T FELT A WARM SHOWER IN DAYS. COPE SEEMS ON THE LEVEL, AT LEAST, PROVIDING A PLACE FOR ME TO LAY LOW. BUT, I'M NOT STAYING BECAUSE THEY NEED MY HELP

I'M STAYING BECAUSE I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. IT'S SUCH A HELPLESS FEELING. I'LL ADMIT



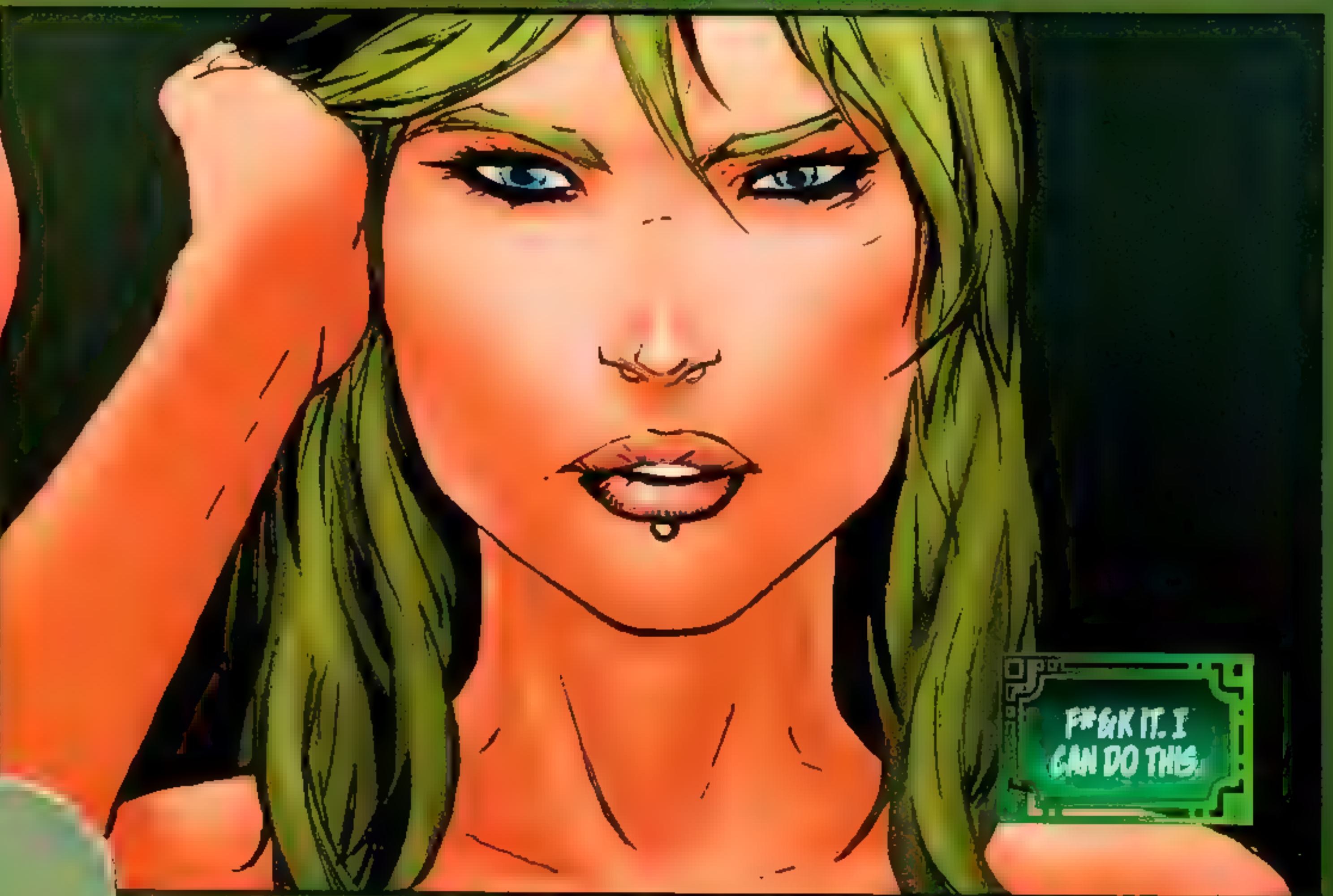
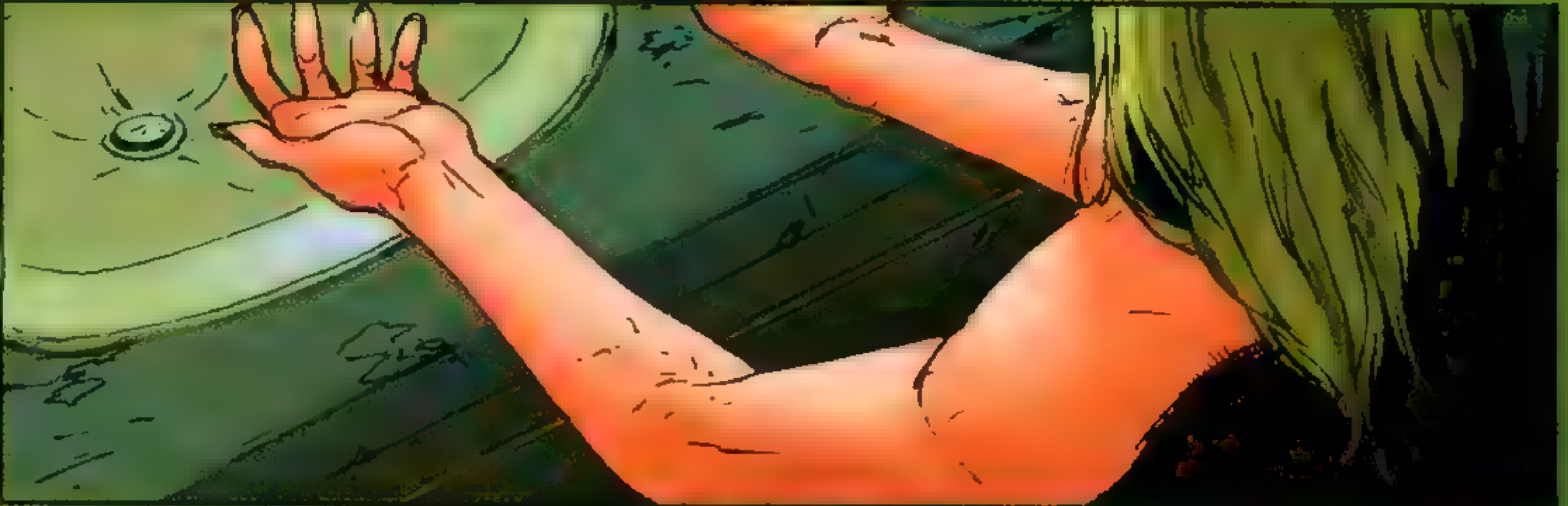
I'M SO WEAK



I CAN KILL A MAN IN LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS WITH ONE ARM TIED BEHIND MY BACK



SO WHY AM I DYING SUCH A SLOW DEATH NOW?



F\*CK IT. I CAN DO THIS









MAZUTSU-SAN,  
PLEASE!

IT'S NOT  
YOUR FAULT,  
HIDEKI.

UPON  
JOINING OUR  
ORGANIZATION,  
YOU WERE  
REQUIRED  
TO FIERCELY  
DEVOTE ALL OF  
YOUR LOYALTY  
TO ME.

ALL OF  
YOU.

HOWEVER,  
AFTER RECENT EVENTS,  
IT'S CLEAR THE DEVOTION  
OF OUR PEOPLE MUST BE PUT  
TO THE TEST. YOU MEN HAVE  
BEEN SELECTED NOT BECAUSE  
OF YOUR ABILITIES, OR YOUR  
PERSONALITIES, OR BECAUSE  
OF ANY INDISCRETIONS--  
NO...



...YOU WERE  
CHOSEN BECAUSE I  
DO NOT COMPLETELY  
TRUST YOU.

YOU ARE NEW,  
OR INEXPERIENCED,  
OR SIMPLY SUSPICIOUS,  
AND THUS... AN EXAMPLE  
MUST BE MADE TO MY  
VETERANS.

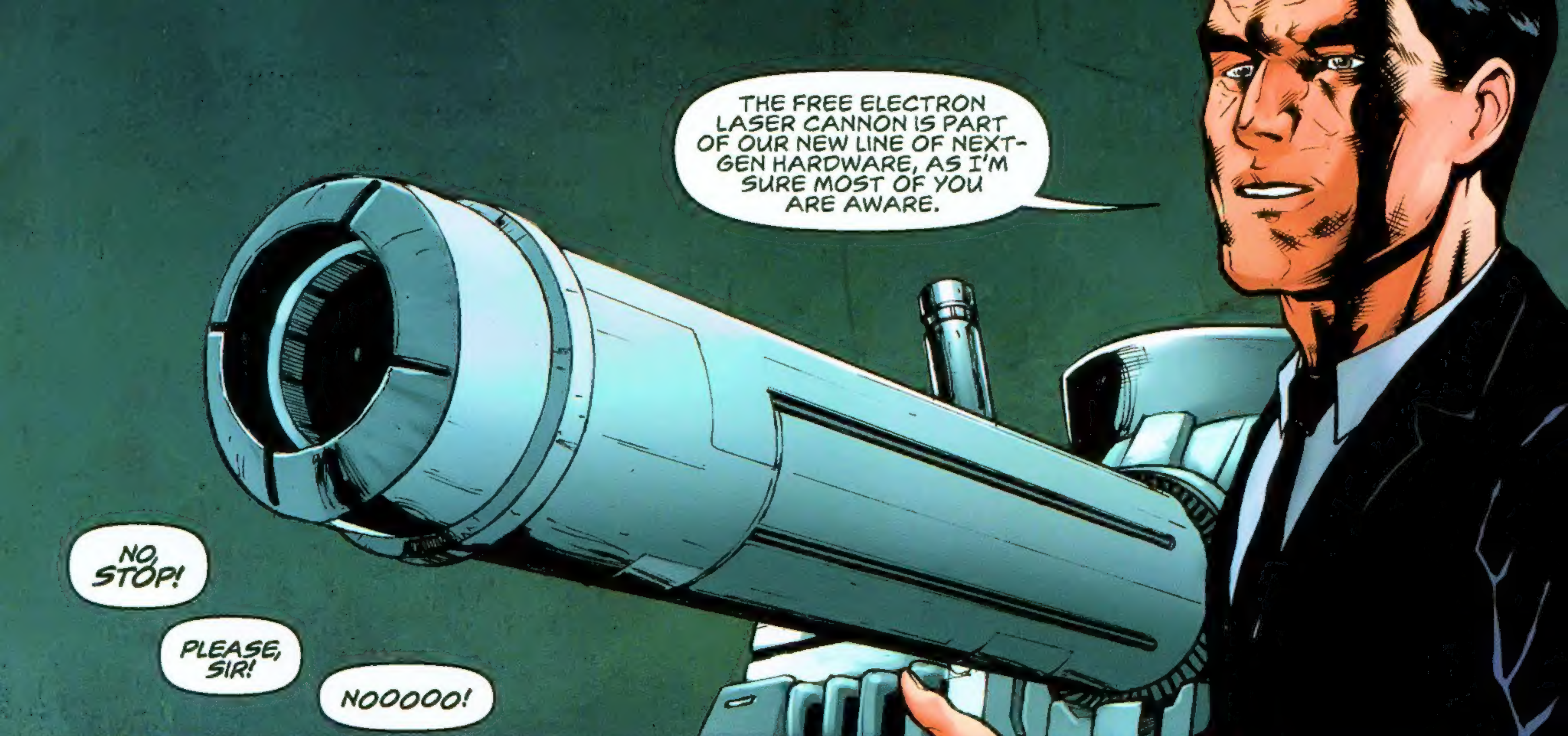


MR. TARVER,  
IF YOU MAY?



PLEASE!



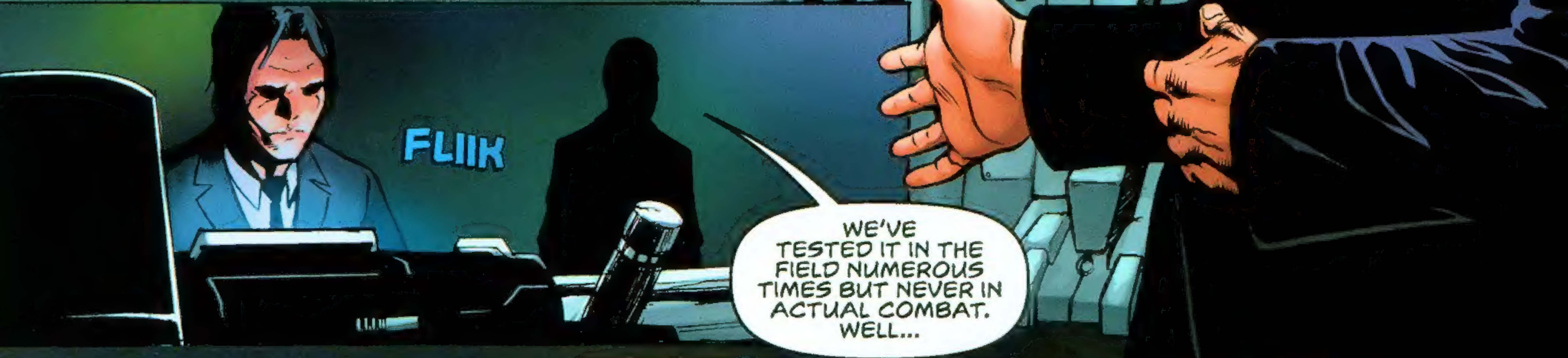


THE FREE ELECTRON LASER CANNON IS PART OF OUR NEW LINE OF NEXT-GEN HARDWARE, AS I'M SURE MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE.

NO, STOP!

PLEASE, SIR!

N00000!



WE'VE TESTED IT IN THE FIELD NUMEROUS TIMES BUT NEVER IN ACTUAL COMBAT. WELL...



...THIS WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH.

PLEASE!!!



MR. TARVER, I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE THE HONOR.

AS YOU... WISH.

LET THIS SERVE AS A LESSON TO ALL OF US. THIS ORGANIZATION IS BUILT ON TRUST. WE LOST ONE OF OUR BEST SOLDIERS TO AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND A TRAITOR BECAUSE THERE WAS A FRACTURE IN OUR BOND OF LOYALTY.

WE MUST BE SURE OF EVERY MEMBER'S DEDICATION. IF WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN...



CLICK





...THEN WE  
MUST ELIMINATE  
ALL DOUBT.



NOW,  
FIND ME  
LILY

TO BE CONTINUED...



From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: David Wohl (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and Michael Turner (Fathom, Soulfire)

# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT *ASSASSIN* #3

**LIFE AFTER  
DEATH**  
PART 3 OF 3



**Aspen's First Ever  
Ongoing Series Continues!**

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS BY: JORDAN GUNDERSON

INKS BY: CHARLIE MOK

COLORS: TEDDORO GONZALEZ

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# Jarutaru

# July

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Hack Slash 17

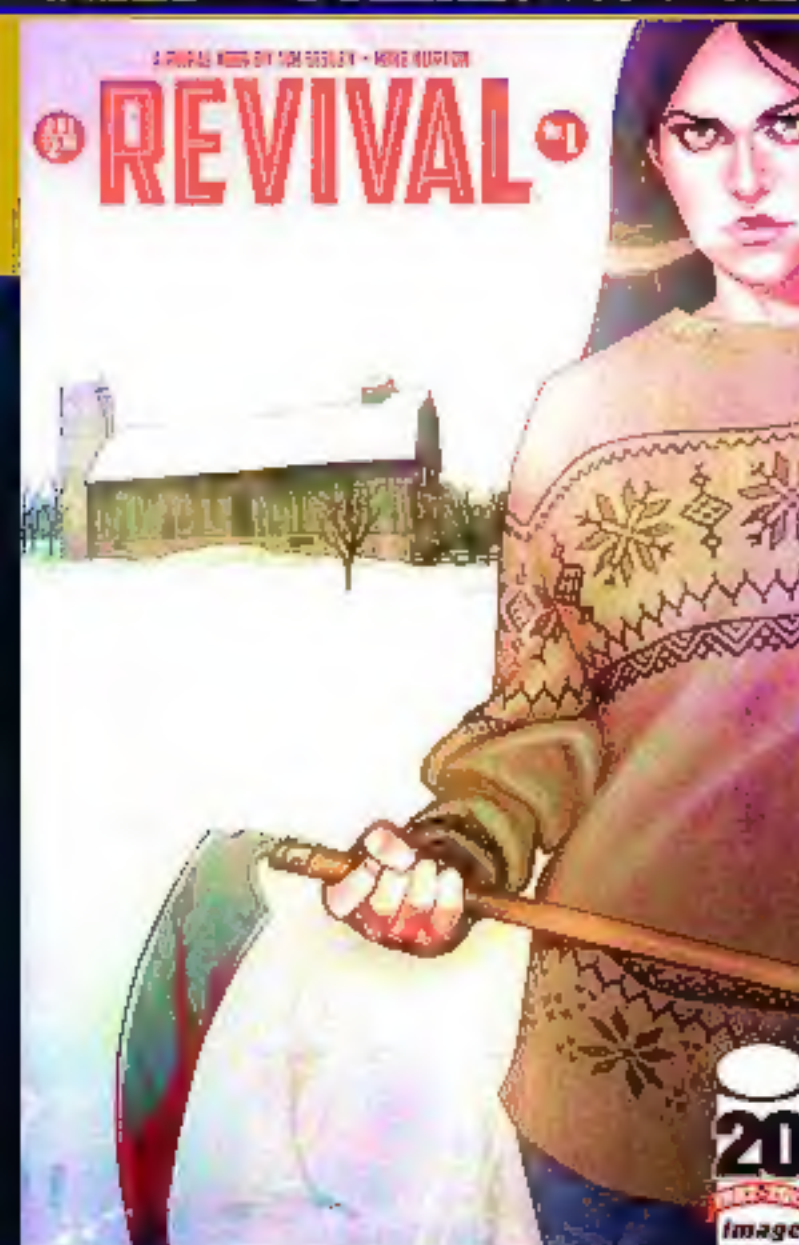
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Revival 1

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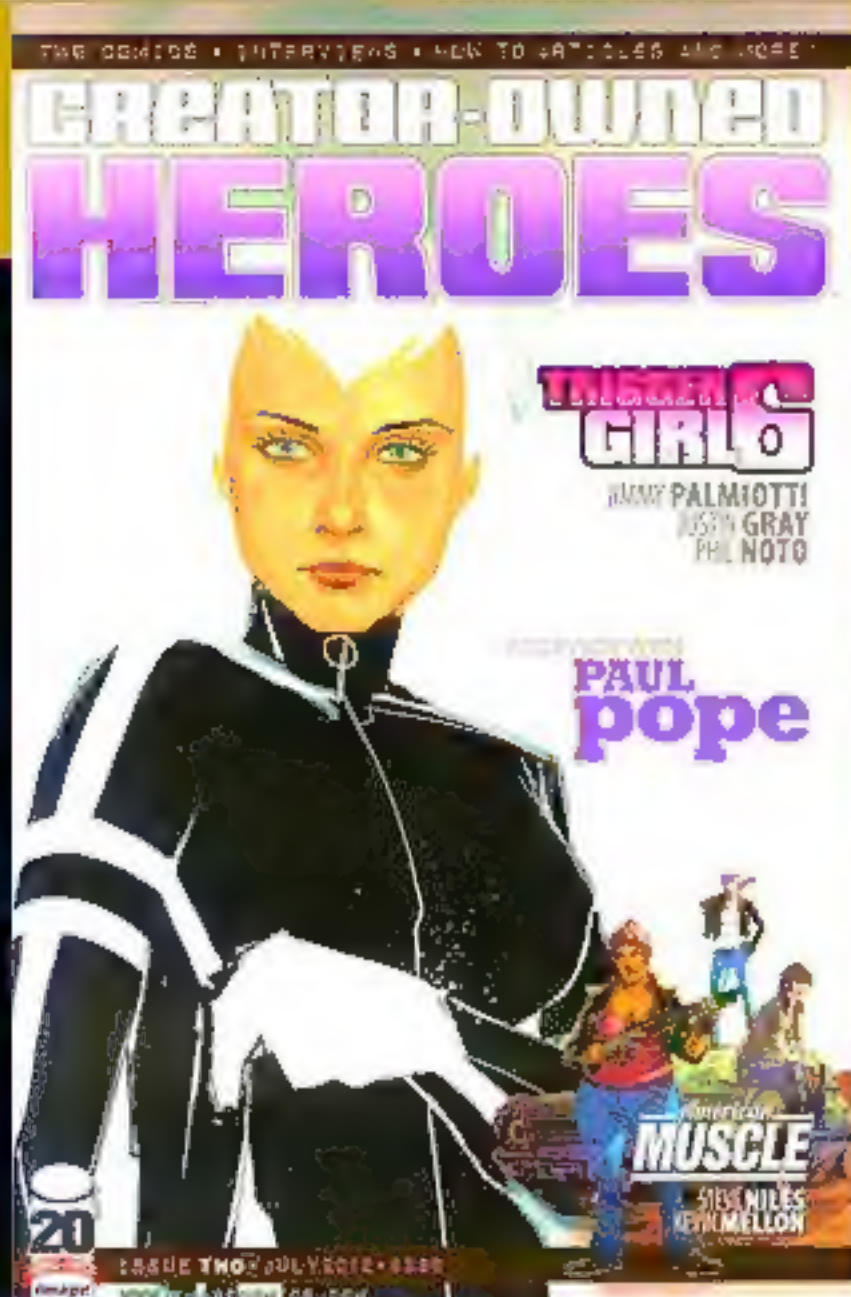


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Vol 2 1

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Witchblade 158

